

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Caribbean Regional Program
<b>Program Title:</b>	Rule of Law
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	538-006
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:</b>	\$1,000,000 DA
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$0
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$575,000 DA; \$425,000 ESF
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 2000
<b>Estimated Completion Date:</b>	FY 2004

**Summary:** USAID's Rule of Law program is improving the efficiency and fairness of legal systems in the Caribbean by 1) providing technical assistance, training, and commodities to the Eastern Caribbean Courts to modernize the legal system and increase access to legal information; 2) providing technical assistance and commodities to physically establish the Caribbean Court of Justice, which will address trade disputes; and 3) providing technical assistance to revise and update laws related to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, justice, and security.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2003 Program:

Improve efficiency of legal systems (\$300,000 DA). To modernize the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, USAID will fund technical assistance to streamline appellate procedures and training courses for judges and court staff on the use of the Judicial Enforcement Management Systems case management software for areas such as jury management. To establish automated court reporting in three additional OECS countries, USAID will continue to train court reporters and procure equipment. USAID will replicate the court-connected alternative dispute resolution system established last year in St. Lucia in two additional OECS countries. Based on an evaluation of the effectiveness of public education efforts, USAID will continue to educate the public on the role of the new Caribbean Court of Justice, which has become a legal entity with original jurisdiction over trade disputes, and provide technical assistance and equipment to assist with its physical establishment. Principal grantees are the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, the OECS Secretariat, and the British Virgin Island Academy of Court Reporting.

Improve access to legal training (\$200,000 DA). USAID will fund four specialized training courses in technical areas such as legal writing and sentencing for judges and key judicial personnel to improve their capability to perform duties more efficiently and knowledgeably. The principal grantee is the OECS Secretariat.

Revise and update laws (\$500,000 DA). USAID will fund technical assistance to help establish a regional Legislative Drafting Facility within the CARICOM Secretariat. The facility will draft legislation with respect to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, international trade, HIV/AIDS, and justice and security issues. It will be the focal point for the development of new regional laws in critical areas such as money laundering, assets forfeiture, and terrorism. The principal grantee is the CARICOM Secretariat.

#### FY 2004 Program:

Improve efficiency of legal systems (\$300,000 DA). USAID expects to continue efforts to streamline the Court of Appeal's appellate process and establish the Caribbean Court of Justice. USAID is planning to fund additional training for judges and court staff in use of the Judicial Enforcement Management Systems software in areas such as financial management. USAID is planning to replicate alternative dispute resolution facilities in the two OECS countries that will not yet have them.

Improve access to legal training (\$200,000 DA). USAID plans to train judges and court staff in four specialized areas with at least one course utilizing distance education techniques.

Revise and update laws (\$75,000 DA, \$425,000 ESF). USAID expects to continue technical assistance to the regional Legislative Drafting Facility to help develop new regional laws in the areas of trade, justice, and security.

**Performance and Results:** For the first time in history, the courts, judges, and personnel of the High Courts and High Court Offices in the six OECS countries all have access to a computerized case tracking system. This advance dramatically improves the efficiency of the court system in disposing of both criminal and civil cases, and 900 backlogged civil cases have been cleared from the system this past year. Automated court reporting has been established in St. Kitts and Grenada. Both of these countries are experiencing an improvement in the ability of judges to obtain transcripts of judicial proceedings more expeditiously. USAID has successfully established the first court-based alternative dispute resolution system in the OECS countries in St. Lucia. To date, judges have referred 42 cases from the formal High Court system to alternative dispute resolution, 19 have been scheduled for mediation, and 10 mediations have successfully concluded to the satisfaction of the parties involved.

With successful completion of this program in 2004, the OECS court system will operate more efficiently. Judges will be more knowledgeable of modernized techniques, the public will benefit from access to a more open and democratic system, and laws will be developed to support free trade and competition, curb international crime, and protect human rights.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

### Caribbean Regional Program

538-006 Rule of Law	DA	ESF
<b>Through September 30, 2001</b>		
Obligations	120	3,975
Expenditures	120	423
Unliquidated	0	3,552
<b>Fiscal Year 2002</b>		
Obligations	0	1,000
Expenditures	0	650
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>		
Obligations	120	4,975
Expenditures	120	1,073
Unliquidated	0	3,902
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>		
Obligations	0	0
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA</b>		
Obligations	1,000	0
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003</b>		
Obligations	1,000	0
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>		
Obligations	575	425
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	1,695	5,400